

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Drawing Changes

FIG. 2 has been amended to provide reference numeral "34" to the auto-detect logic depicted therein, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. No new matter has been added.

Amendment to the Specification

The specification has been amended pursuant to incorporate the suggestions by the Examiner, which are gratefully acknowledged. No new matter has been added.

Pending Claims

Claims 1-19 and 21-25 are now pending. Claim 22 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Allowed/Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of Claims 8-12 and 22-25 is gratefully acknowledged.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

Claims 1-7 and 13-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter applicant regards as the invention. These Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to recite the

connection between the radio modem unit and the RF signal booster unit, obviating the indefiniteness rejection.

The First 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 13-15, 17 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Barber in view of Dutkiewicz et al..

Claim 13 has been amended to state that “the booster unit is connectable to the radio modem unit with a *single coaxial connector* adapted to transmit RF signals, and wherein baseband signals are transmitted to the RF signal booster unit *by way of the single coaxial connector* by the radio modem and are used by the booster unit to prepare for transmission.” (Emphasis added) By comparison, Barber uses separate connectors for the RF signals and the control signals, as shown in FIG. 4, and described column 5, lines 15-18, wherein it is stated that “A second connection is a signaling connection 76 providing a medium for transmission of control signals between the CPU 58 (FIG. 3) in the radio transceiver 30 (FIG. 1) and a CPU 78 in the booster amplifier 40 (FIG. 1).”

Thus Barber disclosure is simply another instance of the prior art configurations discussed in the Background section of the specification, and suffers from the same disadvantages which the present invention overcomes—namely, the need for the user to make an additional connection between the booster and radio modem, which the user may forget to do at his inconvenience and peril (the units may become damaged). Dutkiewicz et al.. does not remedy this shortcoming.

Claim 19 has been amended to state that the switch comprises “a pair of diodes arranged back-to-back and disposed in the RF signal path, such that when the switch is in an ON position RF signals pass through the diodes from the radio modem to the booster unit, and when the switch is in an OFF position, RF signals are precluded by the diodes from effectively passing from the radio modem to the booster unit .”

It will be appreciated that this arrangement is markedly different from that shown in FIG. 10 in Barber. Diodes 234 and 236 are NOT connected end-to-end, and do not provide an RF signal flow path when the switch is ON. They are connected head-to-head as part of a complex arrangement involving CPU 209 (FIG. 9), and are designed to effect switching between two booster units (192 and 194) depending on the desired transmission mode. In the presently claimed invention, a simple ON/OFF switching mechanism is employed to protect the power amplifier in the booster unit in a much more elegant and efficient manner, with the RF signals flowing through the diodes in the ON mode, and being effectively blocked, or reflected back to the radio modem, in the OFF mode. Dutkiewicz et al.. does not remedy this shortcoming.

Conclusion

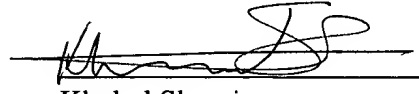
It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

Dated: March 19, 2004


Khaled Shami
Reg. No. 38,745

Thelen Reid & Priest LLP
P.O. Box 640640
San Jose, CA 95164-0640
Tel. (408) 292-5800
Fax. (408) 287-8040

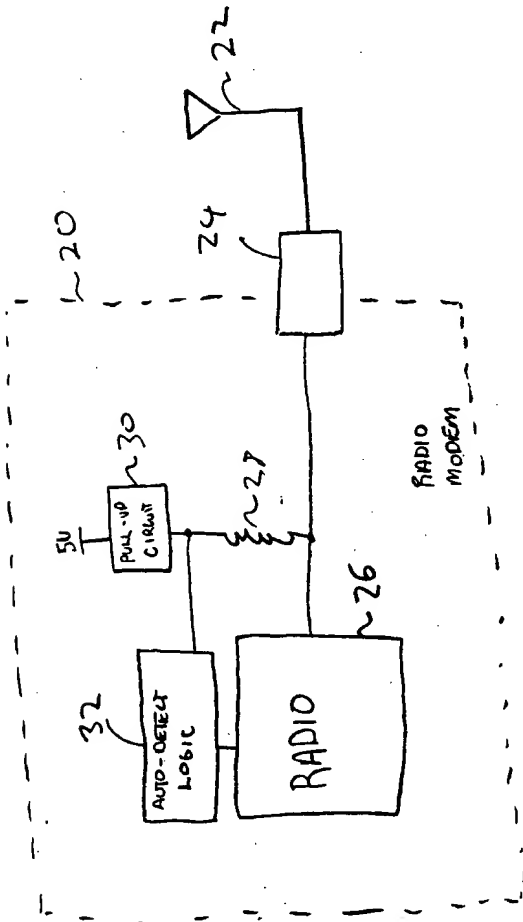
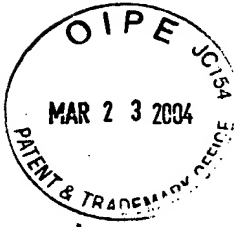


FIGURE 1

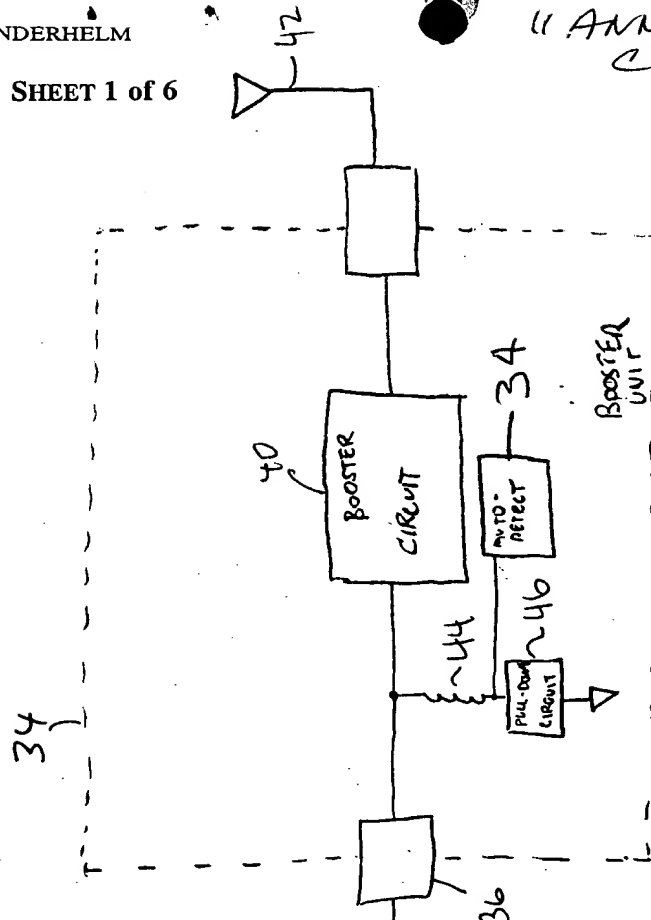


FIGURE 2